UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/AC.46/1998/3/Add.41
6 July 1998

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Intergovernmental working group of experts
on human rights of migrants
Third session
Geneva, 23 - 27 November 1998

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS, UNITED NATIONS BODIES, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Secretary-General

ANNEX

Submission from Austria
dated 13 February 1998

GE.98 - 13071

The Permanent Mission of Austria presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and referring to its note G/SO 212 26(1) of 2 December 1997 has the honour to transmit the already available answers to the questionnaire as follows:

General remarks: The term „migrant" is used according to the definition submitted by the IOM, but not including EU-nationals. Similarly, the term „non-nationals" in the following text does not include EU-nationals.

1. Latest figures or estimates for non-nationals having authorization to work in the country:

- Throughout the year of 1997, an average of 247.264 non-nationals had particular authorization to work in Austria.

2. Measures taken to strengthen the promotion, protection and implementation of the human rights of migrants (not an exhaustive list):

- The Federal Ministry of the Interior has trained 27 multiplicators for human rights issues in police work, with a specific weight on migrants and other aliens. These multiplicators will, during the following months, implement the respective training and awareness projects within the police force.

- Furthermore, the Federal Ministry of the Interior is currently organizing a series of events regarding human rights and executive power, again with a particular stress on migrants and other aliens.
- The Federal Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs finances information centers for foreigners, including forms and brochures in the most commonly used languages for different public institutions.

3. Manifestations of racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination against migrants:

- The Federal Ministry of the Interior reports no public demonstrations of the above-mentioned kind. Printed (non-violent) xenophobic propaganda continues to be circulated. 20 individuals were reported to the police under § 283 of the penal code (public incitement) in 1997.

4. Steps taken in order to ratify the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention concerning Migration for Employment (Revised), 1949 (No.97), and the ILO Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers, 1995 (No. 143):

- The above-mentioned conventions have not been ratified by Austria. Their contents, however, are by and large already implemented into and partly even surpassed by the Austrian legal system. Only in a few instances does the Austrian standard deviate from the international one, measures to remedy these are being introduced to parliament (such as the right to be eligible for a position as a labour representative for foreigners).

The Permanent Mission of Austria avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurance of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 13 February 1998